MoU for quality of medicines

4075. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint working group of the India Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) and the Us Pharmacopoeia (USP) has been constituted to work towards evolving standards for quality, safety and efficacy of medicines in the country;

(b) if so, whether Memorandum of Understanding between IPC and USP was signed during August, 2006; and

(c) if so, what were the main aims of the MoU and to what extent both countries have agreed to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Main aims of the MoU are as follows:

(i) promote cooperation between the Parties;

(ii) improve transfer and exchange of information between the Parties;

(iii) increase awareness of the importance of the quality, safety and efficacy of medicine;

(iv) establish the basis for a long-term relationship.

Obesity due to junk food

†4076. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report that the problems of obesity amongst school going children is increasing due to consumption of fast food;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government intends to issue any directives in this regard or to impose a ban on such items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per information available, there are few studies to indicate a positive correlation between consumption of junk foods and obesity leading to diet related chronic non-communicable diseases;

(b) and (c) Government is making efforts to discourage consumption of junk foods including carbonated beverages and make people aware of nutritious and healthy foods;

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written to health Ministers of all States & UTs to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from school and college canteens; Letters have also been written to chief Minister of all States and UTs to seriously consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from canteens of education institutes.

Promotion of homoeopathy

4077. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to promote Homeopathy as a medical discipline in the country;

(b) which is the nodal agency to promote study and research in homoeopathy; and

(c) which are the institutions in the country that have been recognized for teaching homoeopathy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) For